

CURRENT SPORTING GOSSIP

JACKSONVILLE A SUCCESSFUL WINTER MEETING.

New York Horses and Owners Chiefly Responsible—Tampa Suffers From Conflict—Oakland and Juarez Experiments—Big Racking for Boca Grande

Of the four winter race meetings under way just now, the one at Jacksonville, under the management of Curley Brown, will probably be the most successful, not only the one to show a balance on the right side of the ledger when the sport winds up in March. New York horsemen and horse players have made Jacksonville possible as far as racing goes, and as the times pass it becomes more evident that a better quality of racing material and more betting will help to establish this meeting as a permanent attraction.

Twenty-three bookmakers were in line at Jacksonville on Saturday and many thousands of persons saw the races. This was the best showing recorded since the track first was opened and was taken to mean that general interest in Jacksonville will increase.

Some pretty fair horses are racing at Jacksonville, a majority of them being owned by Turken who are well known on the metropolitan courses. It is said that 70 per cent. of the regulars at the track come from this city, but that, strange to say, practically all the bookmakers are Western men.

Tampa has been trying for many years to become a racetrack owner. It is the opinion that if he makes no serious mistakes he will gather a fortune as a result of this Jacksonville venture. But those who have been to Tampa track, and the promoter and his presiding judge, Joseph A. Murphy, would do well to abolish the books provided exclusively for negroes and to wipe out the betting commissions in the grandstand who handle women's races.

While Jacksonville is going along smoothly, Tampa, Juarez and Oakland are not so well off. Tampa, like Miami, is waiting for something to turn up. The Tampa managers have reduced the overnight purses to practically nothing and are waiting for time until the usual crowd of tourists arrives on the scene.

Cheap selling plates are providing the racing and less than big money makers are in line, with little or no big money in sight. Tampa ran a pretty good meeting last winter because of practically no opposition, but the new track at Jacksonville, it appears, has had a bad start with much of Florida's new racing material.

The Tampa people do not expect to make money, but they feel confident of breaking even. They have a well appointed racetrack, with Patrick Dunne as presiding judge.

Oakland, owned by Thomas H. Williams, is fighting hard to keep racing alive in California in spite of the enforcement of the new Walker-Otis law. Williams is prepared to lose a large sum of money in maintaining the sport until such time as the Legislature may see fit to provide a remedy.

The oral betting system has been tried at Oakland with fair success. The attendance has been considerably small, but there are no free badgers and purses have been cut. Not more than a dozen jockeys have been in line so far and betting has been very light. Many test cases are pending in the courts, and if favorable verdicts are returned the track will recover its lost popularity. It is thought, although it is not certain, that the oral betting system will be carried on entirely under new methods.

Juarez, in Mexico just over the border from El Paso, has been a disappointment so far. The weather conditions have been very unfavorable and the rival meetings also have hurt. If Juarez were able to conduct a winter meeting without opposition, the chances are good that the venture would be a success in every way. Under the present adverse conditions it is considered that the new Mexican track built at an outlay of \$600,000 and projected by Americans, will be run this winter at a loss.

If the patronage is sufficient to pay running expenses promoters will be extremely fortunate. The horses at Juarez include some good selling players, but there are not more than ten responsible bookmakers and no attempt to handle big money.

Not more than a dozen jockeys in New Orleans want to have racing restored there under their own supervision, are framing bills for the Legislature and are waiting for the Legislature will include these points.

The absolute elimination of all outside persons from the ownership of Fair Grounds and City Park.

To permit betting by the pari-mutuel system with the permanent elimination of the bookmaker and pool sellers.

The creation of a State Racing Commission to govern the sport and apportion the dates.

The placing of a limit of four winter months for the period of racing.

The permanent closing of one of the two big New Orleans tracks.

The rigid prohibition of women and minors from making wagers.

The barring from the judges' stand of horse owners or any one connected with racing.

If New Orleans is to have a winter race again, therefore, it probably means that the Legislature at least two of the winter tracks will be in operation will be crowded to the wall.

Hal Woodford of Kentucky says he will match the two-year-old colt Boca Grande against any three-year-old in America for even money. Woodford has won \$100,000 on the result. He says the colt will surely win the Kentucky Derby and will take the measure of any horse in the country.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE FIELDING

MATTY AND CANNITT PRACTICALLY LEAD PITCHERS.

Chance, Miller, Bridwell, Wagner, Tinker, Lennox, Clarke and Gibson Lead in Various Positions—The Pirates Lead in Club Fielding Averages.

The official fielding and pitching records of the National League show that Mathewson was the mainstay of the Giants on the slab. Leaver of Pittsburgh, who leads the pitchers in percentage, took part in two completed games. Cannitt of the Pirates and Matty are next, each having won 25 games and lost 8, with a percentage of .808.

Rube Adams of the Pirates follows with 12 victories and 3 defeats, a percentage of .800. Three fingered Brown of the Cubs, who pitched in 50 games, more than any other baseman, won 27 and lost 9, a percentage of .750.

Chance of the Cubs leads the first basemen with .901 for 92 games, being tied with Stork of the Pirates, who played only 19 games. Tenney of the Giants stands seventh with .885 for 98 games, followed by Hummel and Jordan of the Brooklyn's, with .883 and .882 respectively. Merkle of the Giants played in 70 games, with an average of .878.

Miller of Pittsburgh, in 150 games, got an average of .933, and though ranking third in percentage, leads the second basemen. Evers of the Cubs and Doyle of the Giants are close together with .942 and .940 respectively. Lennox of Brooklyn leads the third basemen, his average being .939 for 121 games. Grant of the Quakers, who played in 184 games, is second with .937, while Devlin of the Giants is sixth with .934 for 143 games.

While three men have better averages for a comparatively small number of games, Bridwell of the Giants, Wagner of the Pirates and Tinker of the Cubs are close to the top of the list of regulars. Hummel and Lowmyer of the Brooklyn's played 17 and 19 games respectively in the outfield without an error, but Clarke of the Pirates, who stands fourth, is the real star, with .967 for 152 games. Hanks of the Yankees, with .974 for 107 games, and Seymour, Murray and McCormack are further down.

Wilson of New York leads the catchers with .985 in 17 games, but Gibson practically holds the list of all-around players. Bergen of Brooklyn is fourth with .973 in 112 games, with Myers and Schol of the Yankees well down with .963 and .962 respectively.

In the club averages the Pirates lead with .971, followed by the Cubs with .969, second place with .961. Brooklyn is fourth and New York fifth. The averages follow:

The Wesleyan hockey squad has arranged these dates:

January 10, Trinity at Middletown (pending);
22, Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst.
February 2, Pomfret at Pomfret; 5, Amherst at Amherst; 9, Trinity at Hartford, Conn.; 22, Alumni at Middletown; 23, Springfield Training School at Springfield.